

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A magnetoresistive device comprising:
 - a magnetoresistive element having two surfaces that face toward opposite directions and two side portions;
 - a pair of bias field applying layers that are adjacent to the side portions of the magnetoresistive element and apply a bias magnetic field to the magnetoresistive element; and
 - a pair of electrode layers that feed a current used for signal detection to the magnetoresistive element, each of the electrode layers being adjacent to one of surfaces of each of the bias field applying layers and overlapping one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, wherein:
 - each of the electrode layers includes: a first layer laid over part of the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element; and a second layer overlapping the first layer and electrically connected to the first layer.
2. A magnetoresistive device according to claim 1, further comprising a protection layer for protecting the magnetoresistive element, the protection layer being located between the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element and the first layers.
3. A thin-film magnetic head comprising:
 - a medium facing surface that faces toward a recording medium;
 - a magnetoresistive element located near the medium-facing surface and having two surfaces that face toward opposite directions and two side portions;
 - a pair of bias field applying layers that are adjacent to the side portions of the magnetoresistive element and apply a bias magnetic field to the magnetoresistive element; and
 - a pair of electrode layers that feed a current used for signal detection to the magnetoresistive element, each of the electrode layers being adjacent to one of surfaces of each of the bias field applying layers and overlapping one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element,
 - wherein each of the electrode layers includes: a first layer laid over part of the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element; and a second layer overlapping the first layer and electrically connected to the first layer.

4. A thin-film magnetic head according to claim 3, further comprising a protection layer for protecting the magnetoresistive element, the protection layer being located between the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element and the first layers.